

De Bever and a sister ship St. Jan Baptist were moored in the Texel Roads on May 9, 1661 awaiting passengers and cargo. Sandbanks prevented large ships from entering Amsterdam's harbor, therefore smaller ships were required to ferry passengers and cargo to the awaiting ships.

Eventually 99 persons boarded the 138 foot De Bever which included about 30 crewmen, 20 fare paying passengers and 51 passengers who would owe the West Dutch Indies Company upon arrival. The cost of the voyage was 36 florins per adult and 18 florins per child with infants traveling free.

The list of indebted passengers included the names of Pieter Marselis, from Beest, his wife, four children, ages 2-13, and two servants. Upon their arrival in New Amsterdam, they would owe the company 216 florins.

The winds and tides were favorable on May 12th and the two ships set sail to the northwest hoping to sail around the northern coast of Scotland where they would enter the Atlantic Ocean. A war with Portugal prevented the ships from using the English Channel. Eight days out a storm arose and the two ships lost contact on May 21st. De Bever sailed through the Orkney Islands reaching its most northern point on May 28th and set a course which took them west of Ireland.

During a two week period, the ship covered 1800 miles, sighting the northwesterly island of the Azores on June 12th, one month into the journey. A course was then set for an additional 2100 miles to Bermuda which was completed on July 16th.

The final leg of the trip was 760 miles north to New Amsterdam. The American coast was sighted on July 27th, and De Bever ran aground 10 miles short of Manhattan. Small boats were required to ferry passengers and some cargo to shore. After a journey of 78 days and 5600 miles, our first ancestors arrived in the new world.

New Amsterdam, which would later be renamed New York by the British, was settled by the Dutch in 1625, 36 years before the arrival of the Marselis family. Therefore they were probably welcomed by family or family friends who probably had guaranteed their passage to the new world.

The area underwent several turmoils before and during the time of the arrival of Pieter and Elizabeth and the generation of the birth and departure of Peter and his brother Ephraim to the south. New Amsterdam had a number of battles over a period of years with Great Britain, and later the battle of the Colonies with Great Britain. George Washington and his army actually camped on Marsalis property. A prominent feature in the area is a rock bluff called Washington's Rock.

Pieter and Elizabeth were the great grandparents, four times removed, of Peter H. Marsalis and his siblings. Peter's parents John and Prudence sired three other children i.e. Ephraim, Sarah and John. The children grew up hearing of the deeds and exploits of their **great uncles Anthony and Thomas Hutchins**. The Hutchins brothers were siblings of their grandmother Hannah Hutchins Marsalis.

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### Hutchins Uncles

**Anthony** was born in Monmouth, N.J. ca. 1725. He would be described as a frontiersman, speculator, public servant, planter and a British subject. He served as an officer in the British Army during the French and Indian War. He later moved to South Carolina, married and became a prominent planter within the region. He held a number of political offices while residing in the area. When it

became clear that Great Britain would be at war with the Colonists, he moved his family to the Natchez District which was still under control of the British. He had been granted 250,000 acres through a Spanish land grant but, because of numerous circumstances, the grant was never completed.

The land that he selected for his home was on the Indian site known as White Apple Village. On these 6000 acres he would raise indigo, cotton, corn and cattle becoming one of the most prominent men in the area.

During the year 1778, he represented the assembly of West Florida at Pensacola. In 1781, he was appointed a major with the rank of lieutenant colonel in the provisional regiment and took part in the uprising against the Spanish. Because of his loyalty to the British, he had fled to London where he lived away from his family for several years. Through the influence of William Panton (Panton and Leslie) he was permitted to return in 1785.

He retired from the British Army on half pay. Then on July 10, 1800, he finally denounced his allegiance to Great Britain and took an oath of allegiance to the United States. That same year he was elected as a Representative to the Congressional assembly of the territory.

He died on his Natchez plantation on November 14, 1804, leaving his wife and nine children.

**Thomas** was born in Monmouth, N. J. 6 years after Anthony. He left home at the age of 16 and would later obtain an appointment in the British Army. He also fought in the French and Indian War becoming a captain and paymaster of the 60th American Regiment. Later he was commissioned a lieutenant. He started working as an engineer for the British Army before becoming a land surveyor. During that time he helped in surveying parts of the Mississippi River and British West Florida which included the Natchez District.

Because of his loyalty to the American cause, he resigned his British commission, was arrested and detained in London. An appeal to Benjamin Franklin, who was in France at the time, helped to obtain his release. Because of his advancements in the field of topography and geography, Benjamin Franklin invited him to be a member of the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia

He was later appointed the first and only Geographer of the United States. His township and range system of surveying is now the standard used in modern day surveying.

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### **Peter H. Marsalis**

Peter was born in N.J. in 1775 and lived there until about 1795 when he and brother Ephraim left for the Natchez Territory with the idea of joining up with their great uncle Anthony. They were welcomed to White Apple Village and soon were given the duty of overseeing their uncle's boat business. Natchez was one of the busier ports on the lower Mississippi River, and they quickly learned the business. In addition to their business endeavors they were mentioned in a 1799 letter from Anthony as being sergeants in the British Army.

Peter wasn't as taken with his uncle's businesses as much as Ephraim, and with his uncle's influence decided to try to hire on with Anthony's friend William Panton whose fur trade business was located in Pensacola, Fla. The last mention of Peter in Natchez is in a May 26, 1800 letter written by his cousin Elizabeth, daughter of Anthony, stating that he had stopped by for a visit. He probably left to join

Panton and Leslie sometime in June 1800.

By 1800, Panton and Leslie had become the largest Indian trading company in the southeast. They virtually had a monopoly on most activities in the area which extended from the Chattahoochee River (western boundary of present day Georgia) to the Mississippi River and northward from the Gulf of Mexico to the Tennessee River. They were also active in the Bahamas. In addition to Indian trading, lumber and slave trading, they were owners of a salt works on Providence Island on the coast of Florida.

At that time, Spain claimed all of the lands controlled by the Company. Although the partners were loyalists to Great Britain, Spain allowed them to operate because they didn't have any traders established in the area. By allowing the partnership, Spain could provide goods, under the guise of the Company, to the Indians and still retain them as allies against the British.

Things were beginning to become unraveled by 1810. Paton had died and Spain was nearing the loss of its toe-hold in the United States. The Indians, who were indebted millions of dollars to the Company, began selling their lands to the United States and using these monies to pay off their debts. The Indian Treaties resulted in the United States owning millions of acres of land in what was once Spanish territory. After the Battle of Horseshoe Bend and the War of 1812, things were more or less over for the Company.

Peter seemed to have quickly learned the Indian trade with Panton and Leslie, and we next hear of him as being one of the signers of the Treaty of Fort Confederation on October 17, 1802. This treaty with the Choctaws was signed at Fort Tombecbe which was located near the present site of Epps, Alabama about 50 miles west of Tuscaloosa. Several University of Alabama archaeological teams have and are excavating the Fort site.

Peter was still working for Panton and Leslie in 1803 which is the year that he married Mary Magdeline Gordon. It's not clear when he terminated with the Company but possibly around 1808. By that time he had purchased 50 acres of land on Little Cedar Creek in Jones County, Georgia (near present day Macon) and was raising two children.

We know that he was still in the area on December 5, 1811 because Thomas was born in Georgia on this date. The Creeks were really beginning to stir things. A massacre had occurred at Fort Mims, Alabama, and by 1812 General Andrew Jackson would battle the Creeks at Horseshoe Bend. Becoming quite concerned about the situation, Peter decided to move his wife (who was pregnant with Patterson) to the Natchez District. Census records show that Patterson was born in Mississippi January 1813 therefore they probably departed the latter part of November 1812.

The Lower Creek Indian path ended very near Peter's property and then joined with other paths which trended in a southwesterly direction. These various paths allowed Peter and his group to reach the Natchez Territory. They would eventually travel about 500 miles and cross three major rivers over a two month period of time. They traveled either from Macon, Montgomery, St. Stevens to Natchez or Macon, Montgomery, Meridian, Jackson to Natchez. The distance was essentially the same, and he was probably well acquainted with both routes because of his work with Panton and Leslie. The group probably arrived sometime in January 1813.

Peter and his family spent about two and half years with Anthony's family at White Apple Village. During this time he decided on an area suitable for settling down and raising his growing family. On

February 16, 1816, he purchased 158 acres of land located on the west bank of the east fork of the Amite River in Amite County. He became permanently settled in Mississippi a year before statehood.

By 1819, he had become well respected and was held in high esteem because he was elected as Justice of the Peace on February 16, 1819 and again on October 25, 1825, each for a two year term. Only well educated, respected and well-to-do persons were allowed to hold the position. In addition, a bond was required which in 1872 amounted to \$2000. Today, in Amite County, the position is titled Justice of the Court.

Besides his personal responsibilities, he continued to be active in the affairs of the County. As was common for that period of time he was a member in several Masonic lodges. The Liberty Advocate advertised him as a cotton broker for Jenkins and Bonner out of New Orleans. He was asked to appraise several individual's property, to attest to the transfer of property to Mars Hill Baptist Church, and as a member of the East Fork Baptist Church (along with his wife Mary and son James) he was asked to hold several positions.

At his death mid-July 1846, he owned over 1000 acres of land which required the use of at least 35 slaves. 800 plus acres, along with most of his slaves, were sold after his death.

The name Marsalis is not noticeable today and most people have never heard of it. However, descendants from Peter and Mary Marsalis still live in the area.

Our MARSALIS family began in the U. S. on May 9, 1661 with the arrival of the ship De Bever (The Beaver) into New Amsterdam (New York):

"Passenger list : "Pieter Marcelis/ Marselis, from Beesd/Beest (Dutch Province of Gelderland), with wife, 4 children, 13, 6, 4, and 2 years old and 2 servants" --Holland Year Book 1902

Within the last few years there has been confirmation of Pieter Marcelis' origins in Beesd/Beest, Netherlands from " Terry". He is from the UK and also speaks Dutch and has provided me, Sharon Marsalis, a long list of names in land transactions that pertain to Pieter Marselis from Beesd.. I have posted much of this information on the various online Message Boards.

<http://www.vanderhoofproject.com/>

is Terry's fabulous family site. Please visit it. The ship De Bever on which Pieter Marselis/Marcelis came over to New Amsterdam is a special interest there with new information coming to light on its voyages and passengers.

Some of Terry's statements taken from emails to me:

"The land transactions I mentioned are taken from the 'Rechterlijk Archief Beest en Rhenoij' the records of the court of schepen (Alderman)

Mostly these are land transactions which were witnessed at the court by at least two schepen. The names of the parties are listed at the top of each page and are called 'loofsignaten' in Dutch (literally "leaf-signatures") Unfortunately the documents themselves haven't been copied or transcribed which is a shame because there is sometimes a lot of detail - neighbours, area and value of land, location of the land etc.

There are several books but only Books(Boek) 196-203 are listed here. Blz means 'page' People on the same page were parties to a particular transaction."

"Also a smaller file with all the refs to Peter Marcelis extracted and a list of everyone with the patronymic/aftername of Peters. It's possible that Marcelis Petersz who appears in Book 199 and 200 could be the father of Pieter Marcelis and it might be worth following this up. There is a possibility that some of the other Petersz people might be related.

From the entries for Pieter Marcelis it seems he was in Beesd by the early 1550's and it's possible that the entries from Book 202 refer to sales of land before he left for America."



"The extant registers of Beesd only date from 1687 as the earlier ones were destroyed by the French during the time of Napoleon, I believe. However, the CBG in Den Haag have copies of Deacons and Elders, Church meeting minutes and some membership lists commencing 1644.

The mention of Peter Marcelis that I've attached comes from a list of 1 October 1653. This is a cumulative list of members added in batches during the year rather than a census of all the members (as the minister compiled in 1644) so it would appear that Peter was made a church member on that date. There is no mention of him coming by transfer from another church ('met attestatie') so he may well have been a young man at the time - the age of first membership could vary between 18 and 15(ish) and we don't know what age the Beesd Church used. No wife (huijsvrouw) is mentioned specifically next to him in the list.

However, we do know he had four children at the time of the voyage aged 13, 6, 4, and 2 years old which suggests he was married by 1653 when the membership list was made. So several scenarios are possible. Maybe he was married to someone already a member. Maybe the older child was from her previous marriage (I guess you can add other possibilities!) Having two servants in 1661 would indicate a man of some substance.

It's also interesting that Peter appears in the Loofsignaten in the early 1550's and it would be interesting to see what the transaction at Bk 201:34 reveals"

Thus completes the quotations from Terry.

No connection has so far been found between the Marselis family that served the Denmark Crown and this Pieter Marcelis/Marselis family.

DNA "which does not lie" has given proof to our Marsalis lineage back to the immigrant Pieter Marcelis since we also have a paper trail or known history thanks to much early research by Tempe Fenn Crosby, May Toney, Harry Marsalis and several others who helped them such as Carroll Marsalis and Tommy Wixon long before the days of the internet. Speaking of the internet, Tommy Wixon came across a gold mine of original papers and letters pertaining to Marsalis and Hutchins on E-bay. He purchased the collection and they are truly invaluable for not only confirming genealogy details but giving life to history.

According to the Holland Society of New York Yearbook 1915 – The Bergen Book, Vol. III Pieter Marcelis settled at Bergen, New Jersey. He and his wife's burials are recorded as:

"1680, Aug 1. Bur. ---, wi. of Pieter Merselisz, seventh with the pall"

“1682, September 4: Bur. Pieter Mercelisze, third in the church at Bergen, fifteenth with the pall.”

The Holland Society has published in book form many of the marriages, births/baptisms and deaths of Pieter Marcelis' descendants.

From this point on we will use the standard spelling of Marselis and state that the lines and branches were prosperous and prolific. The immigrant Pieter's son Marcelis Pieterse had two sons – our “grandfather” Ide and Peter/Pieter. Ide left Bergen County and went down into the Raritan Valley. From there his descendants spread out into Middlesex, Somerset, Monmouth, Union, Mercer Counties, New Jersey to just name several. Ide's brother Pieter/Peter has numerous descendants who stayed mostly in Bergen, Hudson, Essex, Passaic Counties., NJ The spelling of the name as Merselis began with his lines. They are well documented in New Jersey biographical books.

Astoundingly DNA has also solved a 200 year mystery: “Who were the ancestors of the Tory John Edeson and when was he born and where?” Today he is better known as the great grandfather of Thomas Alva Edison. America's own "Wizard of Menlo Park" (now Edison, NJ) and history's 4th most prolific inventor.

Thanks to DNA we have recently discovered a common ancestral grandfather shared between the Marsalis males who have tested and two male Edison descendants with a known paper trail back to a son of the famous loyalist John Edison..

Steve and Austin Edison are direct descendants of John and Sarah Ogden EDESON/EDISON via two different sons of theirs.

Austin descends via a paper trail from Samuel Ogden Edison as did Thomas Alva Edison.

Steve descends via a paper trail from Moses Edison

Another newly revealed cousin is Herb Marselas. He is descended from a John Edason MARSELAS born 1780, Maryland. Again thanks to DNA he is revealed as tightly related to the Edisons and the Marsalis males who have tested and therefore shares a common ancestral grandfather with both.”

David ADDISON knew his paper trail back to his “grandfather” William H. Addison born 1820, NJ but nothing before. DNA has revealed that he is very tightly related to the Edisons and thus shares the same ancestral grandfather as the Marsalis males and the Ediosn males.

Here is a very brief tree linking Marsalis and Edison back to their suspected common ancestor **IDE MARSELIS. Only pertinent lines are listed.**

**(Variant Name spellings are recorded as found on various records and some will reflect the Dutch patronymic system.)**

**1. PIETER MARCELIS and his wife (Elizabeth ? LNU) and 4 children arrived 1661. He died 4 Sep 1682 Bergen, NJ.**

**2. MARSELIS PIETERSE** (as commonly written) born 1656, Netherlands, died 23 Oct 1747, New Jersey married **Pieterje Van de Voorst** (bap. 9 Oct 1659) the daughter of **Ide\* Cornelissen Van Voorst and Hilletje Jans.**

Pieterje Van Voorst's father Ide Cornelius Van Voorst was a son of a prominent settler for the West India Company: **CORNELIUS VAN VOORST**

C. Van Voorst had been born ca.1580 probably in Utrecht, Netherlands and died either late 1638 or early 1639 probably at Ahasimus /Jersey City. He was married to **VROUWTJE IDES** at the time of his death.

C.V.V may well be labeled as "the first Jersey man". Much history is available on him.

Their son **IDE CORNELISSEN VAN VOORST**, born ca. 1626 and died December 28, 1683, is said to be the first native white male to have been born in New Netherlands.

He married 10 -18 -1652 **HILLETJE JANS**, b. ca. 1630 and died 12 - 18- 1705.

One of their daughters was the above **PIETERJE VAN VOORST** who married in 1681 **MARSELIS PIETERSE**

"April 24, 1681. Marcelis Pieters, Y.M., from Beest in Gelderland, and Pietertje Vande Voorst, Y.D., from New York. Received certificate in New York, May 11"

\*Thus the name "Ide" entered the Marselis/Marsalis family by Pieterje Van Voorst and Marselis Pieterse naming a son after her father Ide Cornelissen Van Voorst.

\*Ide/Edo ran as a First Name through several Marselis branches and has no English equivalent. Several different spellings commonly found in early records are Ide/Iden/Idea/Ydes/Edo/Eden/Edea. It is pronounced as "E-da" or "E-duh"

**3. IDE MARSELUS** born 1690 (Baptism recorded in the New York Dutch Church) married **1st Maritie Cornelis Coddemis/Cadmus** April 23, 1713.

No children were known to have been born of this marriage until **EDISON/ADDISON DNA** and a Cadmus estate paper pointed to a **Marcellus Ideson** and a **Cornelius Ideson/Edeson.**



Cornelius and Marcellus were grandsons of Maritie Cornelis Cadmus' parents. In various records Cornelis' last name is spelled Idensse, Edesen, Eidese, Ideson, Idesen and Ydese.

According to the Dutch patronymic system names like John Edeson could be interpreted as John son of Edo/Ide, Marcellus son of Ide, Cornelius son of Ide.

Maritie Coddemis/Cadmus\* must have died. No other record has been found for her.

There are church records for marriage and the baptisms of children of Cornelius Idesen/Edeson and Dirje Vreeland.

There are mentions of Marcellis Idesen as a witness in baptismal records and associations with his grandmother Maritie (Koemans) Cadmus.

“YDES/Ides, MARSELES married Femmetie Doolhagen, Nov 21, 1741, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reformed Dutch Church, Passaic.” **Was this Marcellus Idesen? Were Ydes/Ides and Femmetje parents of John Edeson/Edison? (Femmetie is sometimes Anglicized as Febe or Phebe).** There is a “Marshall Edeson” and a John Edeson/Edison on a loyalist role in Canada. John Edeson is the known great grandfather of Thomas Alva Edison.

It is very probable that Ide Marselis married FIRST COUSINS. His two known wives – (1st) Marritie Cornelese Coddemis/Cadmus and (2nd) Arriaentie Bras-- were the daughters of probable sisters Maritie KOEMANS and Geertie KOEMANS who were the probable daughters of Lucas Koemans and Arriaentie. (Research by SRM.)

**By July 6, 1718 Ide Marselis and 2nd wife Arriaentie Bras (no marriage record) baptised their son "Harmanus"/Harman** Records at the Reformed Dutch Church, Hackensack, N.J.

**Harman died at age 29 in 1747, Piscataway, Middlesex, NJ leaving a widow Hannah Hutchins Marselis and two infant sons – JOHN and Peter. Hannah was born Dec 10, 1723 and was the daughter of (Jacque) James Hutchins and probably Magdalene Pintard, the daughter of a prominent New York French Huguenot. Hannah was the sister of Mississippi planter Anthony Hutchins, a founder of Natchez environs, and the sister of Thomas Hutchins, America's 1st and only Geographer.**

**In her late life Hannah lived with her son Peter and died Sept 11, 1792 near Bound Brook, Somerset Co, NJ.**

(After Harman's early death Hannah Hutchins Marselis married William Robbins/Robins and had several more children. Their known names from family letters purchased on E-bay by Thomas Wixon are Charity, George, William Jr.)

**#4 Harman and Hannah Marselis had 2 sons John (#5 below b. 1745) and Peter (born 1747 )** Peter's line later spelled the name as Marseilles and moved from NJ to Pennsylvania. Peter left a diary of his travels to the Southlands and many letters as well as 2 wills - one unexecuted. It is Peter's great granddaughter Lillie Marseilles Saxman, b 1866, who first began Marselis/Marseilles family research about 1930.

**5. JOHN MARSEILLES/MARSELIS, born Sept 13, 1745, died 22 Oct 1805 Somerset Co, NJ married Prudence Last Name Unconfirmed** - said to be Fitz Randolph. No marriage record has yet been found or confirmation of Prudence being a Fitz Randolph. There is a marriage record of John's brother Peter marrying Rachel Fitz Randolph. John and Prudence (Prudy) had sons **Peter Hutchins Marsalis**., Ephraim H. Marsalis (died 1812, MS) and John H. Marsalis (died age 13, NJ) and a daughter Sarah/Sally.

**6. PETER HUTCHINS MARSALIS born ca 1775 prob. Bound Brook NJ , died July 1846 Amite Co, MS, married Mary Magdalene Gordon in either NC or Georgia.** The Marsalis Cemetery on the site of their former plantation in Amite County, MS is currently being restored in an effort led by Thomas Wixon (Marsalis descendant) and William (Bill) Marsalis and others. Several Marsalis descendants have contributed to the expenses. **All the Marsalises who have tested are direct descendants of one of Peter (Hutchins) H.'s 6 sons. Peter Hutchins Marselis and his descendants adopted the variant MARSALIS spelling.**

**Peter Hutchins Marsalis and Mary Magdalene (Polly) Gordon are the common progenitors for all the mostly Southern lines surnamed MARSALIS**

**Their sons were Ephraim, William Peter, Thomas, Patterson, James and John.**

Their daughters were Sarah Marsalis Gordon, Phoebe Marsalis Dickey, Mariah Marsalis Felder and Prudence Marsalis Gardner.

As of April, 2014 the Marsalis males who have tested are: Ken , a descendant of James; Bill, a descendant of Ephraim; Ernest, a descendant of Ephraim; Michael, Sr and Jr, descendants of William Peter.

Read more at:

<http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/Marsalis//>

<https://www.familytreedna.com/public/Marsalis/default.aspx>

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